

Appln Serial No. 10/814,753

HRT0256C3

1-20 (Cancelled)

21. (New) A method for anastomosing a first hollow vessel to a second hollow vessel having an opening, the method comprising the steps of:

providing an anastomosis device having a plurality of slots, and a plurality of staple members each having a first end and a second end, the staple members comprised of a material capable of being biased from an unbiased configuration to a biased configuration, each separate staple member being configured to be at least partially disposed within a separate one of the plurality of slots;

holding the plurality of staple members in the biased configuration in the plurality of slots;

inserting at least the first ends of the plurality of staple members through the opening in the second hollow vessel while the plurality of staple members are in the biased configuration; and

permitting the plurality of staple members to move from the biased configuration to the unbiased configuration.

22. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the first ends of the staple members do not penetrate through the wall of the second hollow vessel when the staple members are permitted to move from the biased configuration to the unbiased configuration.

23. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the first hollow vessel is a vascular conduit and the second hollow vessel is an aorta.

24. (New) The method of claim 21, comprising evertng the end of the first hollow vessel.

25. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein the evertng step is performed prior to the inserting step.

Appn Serial No. 10/814,753

HRT0256C3

26. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the anastomosis device comprises a tubular member, and the tubular member has the plurality of slots.

27. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the inserting step comprises inserting the first ends of the staple members from an exterior surface of the first hollow vessel toward an interior surface of the first hollow vessel.

28. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the anastomosis device comprises at least one flange having a plurality of holes that are aligned with the plurality of slots.

29. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the anastomosis device comprises a sleeve having at least one plunger slidably disposed therein and within at least one of the plurality of slots, and comprising the step of moving the at least one plunger within the at least one of the plurality of slots to displace at least one staple member from a first position, whereat at least a portion of the at least one staple member is within the at least one of the plurality of slots, to a second position, whereat at least a portion of the at least one staple member is outside the at least one of the plurality of slots.

30. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the plurality of staple members are disposed about a perimeter of the first hollow vessel and outside the lumen of the first hollow vessel.

31. (New) A method for anastomosing a first hollow vessel to a second hollow vessel having an opening, the method comprising the steps of:

providing an anastomosis device having a plurality of slots, and a plurality of staple members each having a first end and a second end, at least a portion of the staple members comprised of a material capable of being biased from an unbiased configuration to a biased configuration, each staple member configured to be at least partially disposed within a separate slot of the plurality of slots;

holding at least a portion of each of the plurality of staple members in the biased configuration in the plurality of slots;

Appln Serial No. 10/814,753

HRT0256C3

inserting at least the first ends of the plurality of staple members through the opening in a second hollow vessel while the at least a portion of each of the plurality of staple members is in the biased configuration;

permitting the at least a portion of each of the staple members to move from the biased configuration to the unbiased configuration.

32. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein the anastomosis device comprises a tubular member, and the tubular member has the plurality of slots.

33. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein the anastomosis device comprises at least one flange having a plurality of holes that are aligned with the plurality of slots.

34. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein the anastomosis device comprises a sleeve having at least one plunger slidably disposed therein and within at least one of the plurality of slots, and comprising the step of moving the at least one plunger within the at least one of the plurality of slots to displace at least one staple member from a first position, whereat at least a portion of the at least one staple member is within the at least one of the plurality of slots, to a second position, whereat at least a portion of the at least one staple member is outside the at least one of the plurality of slots.

35. (New) The method of claim 31, comprising everting the end of the first hollow vessel.

36. (New) The method of claim 35, comprising the step of passing at least a portion of each of the plurality of staple members through the everted first hollow vessel.

37. (New) The method of claim 31, comprising the step of withdrawing the anastomosis device from the first hollow vessel.

38. (New) A method for anastomosing a first hollow vessel to a second hollow vessel having an opening, the method comprising the steps of:

Appln Serial No. 10/814,753

HRT0256C3

providing an anastomosis device having at least one slot, and at least one staple member having a first end and a second end, the staple member comprised of a material capable of being biased from an unbiased configuration to a biased configuration, the staple member configured to be at least partially disposed within the at least one slot;

everting the end of the first hollow vessel;

holding the at least one staple member in the biased configuration in the at least one slot;

inserting at least the first end of the at least one staple member through the opening in the second hollow vessel while the staple member is in the biased configuration; and

permitting the staple member to move from the biased configuration to the unbiased configuration.

39. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein the everting step is performed prior to the inserting step.

40. (New) A method for anastomosing a first hollow vessel to a second hollow vessel having an opening, the method comprising the steps of:

providing an anastomosis device having at least one slot, and at least one staple member having a first end and a second end, at least a portion of the staple member comprised of a material capable of being biased from an unbiased configuration to a biased configuration, the staple member configured to be at least partially disposed within the at least one slot;

everting the end of the first hollow vessel;

holding at least a portion of the at least one staple member in the biased configuration in the at least one slot;

inserting at least the first end of the at least one staple member through the opening in a second hollow vessel while the at least a portion of the staple member is in the biased configuration;

permitting the at least a portion of the staple member to move from the biased configuration to the unbiased configuration.

HRT0256C3

Appln Serial No. 10/814,753

41. (New) The method of claim 40, wherein the evertng step is performed prior to the inserting step.

42. (New) A method for anastomosing a first hollow vessel to a second hollow vessel having an opening, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a plurality of staple members each having a first end and a second end, at least a portion of the staple members comprised of a material capable of being biased from an unbiased configuration to a biased configuration, and an anastomosis device having a plurality of slots, each slot configured to accept at least one of the first end or the second end of a separate staple member;

holding at least one end of each of the plurality of staple members in the biased configuration in a separate one of the plurality of slots;

inserting at least the first ends of the plurality of staple members through the opening in a second hollow vessel with at least a portion of each of the plurality of staple members being in the biased configuration;

permitting the at least a portion of each of the staple members to move from the biased configuration to the unbiased configuration.

43. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein the holding step comprises holding each of the second ends of the staple members in a separate one of the plurality of slots.

44. (New) A method for anastomosing a first hollow vessel to a second hollow vessel having an opening, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a plurality of staple members each having a first end and a second end, at least a portion of the staple members comprised of a material capable of being biased from an unbiased configuration to a biased configuration, and

an anastomosis device having a distal end, the anastomosis device comprising a means for holding one of the first ends and second ends of the plurality of staple members about a perimeter of the distal end of the anastomosis device, the holding means configured to hold at least a portion of each of the plurality of staple members in the biased position;

Appln Serial No. 10/814,753

HRT0256C3

holding at least a portion of each of the plurality of staple members in the biased configuration in the holding means;

inserting the distal end of the anastomosis device through the opening in a second hollow vessel while each of the plurality of staple members is in the biased configuration; and

permitting each of the plurality of staple members to move from the biased configuration to the unbiased configuration.

45. (New) The method of claim 44, comprising the step of moving the plurality of staple members relative to the holding means such that the staple members are permitted to move from the biased configuration to the unbiased configuration.

46. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein the holding means is configured to hold the plurality of staple members in the biased configuration with at least a portion of the staple members passed through an end of the first hollow vessel.